

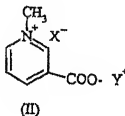
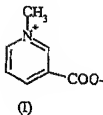
## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please make the following changes at the indicated locations in the specification:

Page 1, between the title and the first paragraph, please insert the following heading: **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Page 1, first paragraph, please make the following changes in this paragraph:

The subject matter of the present invention includes ~~has for an object the use of~~ an agent containing a compound of formula (I) and/or (II)



and a method for repairing, strengthening and restructuring keratin-containing material, particularly keratin-containing skin appendages and preferably keratin fibers such as human hair, and for protecting such material from mechanical and chemical damage, which comprises using the aforesaid agent.

Page 2, between the second full paragraph beginning "Commercial rinses and..." and the third full paragraph beginning "The underlying goal of the present invention...", please insert the following heading:

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION .

Page 9, immediately prior to the last paragraph and before the line ending "...of 1-methylpyridinium-3-carboxylate", please insert the following:

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

The objects, features and advantages of the invention will now be illustrated in more detail with the aid of the following description of the preferred embodiments, with reference to the accompanying figures in which:

Figure 1 is a graphical illustration of the rubbing resistance of untreated or treated hair that is treated by a hair dye composition with or without the agent according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a graphical illustration of the rubbing resistance of untreated or treated hair that is treated by a permanent wave composition with or without the agent according to the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a graphical illustration of the abrasion resistance of artificially dyed hair that is treated by a hair dye composition with or without the agent according to the present invention.

### **EXAMPLES**